

Accreditation

On August 24, 2001, the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), the agency responsible for national fire service accreditation, conferred Accredited Agency status on the Westmont Fire Department. This status culminated over three years of efforts by the Department towards this goal.



The accreditation process is conducted under the direction of the CFAI, a joint venture between the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International City Management Association. This voluntary process is designed to assist fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery to the community.

The process for Westmont began in 1999 and in March of 2001, a four-member CFAI assessment team conducted a five-day site visit. Upon completion of their on-site review, the assessment team recommended the Department to the Commission for "accredited" status. The recommendation was taken to the full Commission for approval, which was bestowed in August of 2001 at their annual meeting. The prestigious plaque now proudly hangs in the Fire Department, attesting to its accreditation status.

Volunteer Programs

- Citizens Fire Academy and Alumni Association
- Emergency Management Agency
- Citizens Clerical Volunteer Program

Mission Statement

The Westmont Fire Department exists to meet the needs created by a wide variety of crisis situations that demand a quick, efficient, and professional emergency response. We strive to provide the highest quality service to the citizens within our jurisdiction while maximizing the productivity of our staff and reducing costs whenever possible.

We will do as much as we can within the limitations of our resources to protect lives and property and limit the degree of human suffering when called to emergencies, including:

- Fires and Explosions
- Acts of Terrorism
- Medical Emergencies
- Vehicle Accident Extrications
- Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activations
- Confined Space, High Angle, and Other Technical Rescues
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Water / Dive Team Rescues

It is through our prevention, education, and training efforts that we strive to prevent, prepare for, or otherwise limit the extent of any fire or other emergency through:

- Fire Prevention / Public Education Programs
- Cause and Origin Investigations
- CPR and First Aid Training
- Emergency Management Agency
- Disaster Planning and Emergency Weather Warning

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Westmont Fire Department

William H. Rahn, Mayor
Frank C. Trout, Fire Chief

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IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL

Introduction



The Westmont Fire Department was founded on October 13, 1923. Today, the Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical and other emergency services to approximately 28,000 residents within its jurisdiction, as well as to commercial, industrial, and residential occupancies over an area that exceeds seven square miles.

The Department is comprised of over seventy full-time and part-time members who staff two fire stations twenty-four hours a day. Full-time staff members include the chief, administrative officer, Fire Prevention Bureau director, Fire Prevention inspector, EMS coordinator, Special Services coordinator, and two administrative secretaries. Administrative part-time positions include two deputy chiefs, a training/safety officer, Fire Prevention inspectors, a Secretary, and the Department chaplain.

Fire Suppression

The Department has a highly trained staff of three chief officers, four captains, thirteen lieutenants, and approximately sixty part-time firefighters/emergency medical personnel, of which over half are licensed paramedics. The current on-duty staffing is fourteen personnel, twenty-four hours a day. Off-duty personnel are subject to "call-back" at any time. A duty officer responds to all fire calls and vehicle accidents.



The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) currently rates Westmont as a Class 3 (on a scale of 1 to 10) Fire Department.

The Department responds to an average of fifteen-hundred fire-related calls and thirty structure fires per year. Other types of responses include activated fire and carbon monoxide alarms, odor investigations, gas, fuel, and chemical leaks, spills, and vehicle extrications. The Department also provides and receives automatic aid to its neighboring communities.

Westmont is also a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 10.

The Department operates four 1500-gallon per minute pumpers, two as front-line pumpers and two as second line pumpers. Other equipment includes a 100-foot aerial platform truck and a heavy rescue squad. The rescue squad also serves as the Specialty Teams vehicle and as a lighting and air rehab squad. Additionally, the Department operates a vehicle that serves as a communications van to assist local police and fire departments as needed.

All Department members are certified through the Office of the State Fire Marshal and almost all have been awarded advanced and specialty certifications.

Emergency Medical Services

Westmont is very proud of the level of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that it provides. It operates three state-of-the-art Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances and both of its front line engines are equipped with complete Advanced Life Support medical equipment. These engines respond with a minimum of one paramedic, and the Department has at least forty licensed paramedics currently on its roster. Approximately sixty-percent of all EMS calls require some form of Advanced Life Support services.



The Department responds to an average of eighteen-hundred emergency medical calls each year. Most patients are transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove or Hinsdale Hospital in Hinsdale, although transports are made to other area hospitals when deemed appropriate for the level of patient care required.

The EMS Division provides other services, including blood pressure screening, public education, CPR and First Aid training classes, senior citizen programs, programs for school-age children, and child car seat inspection and installation.

Westmont Fire Department's EMS Division is operated under the guidance of the Good Samaritan Emergency Medical Services System and is licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Fire Prevention and Public Education

Through the Department's prevention, education, and training efforts, it strives to prevent, prepare for or otherwise limit the extent of any fire or other emergency. The Department's Fire Prevention Bureau works to survey all inspectable occupancies within the Village each year. Other duties performed include fire alarm and sprinkler system acceptance tests, new construction plan review, school visits, compliancy reviews, follow-up inspections, and special assignments.

The Public Education Division works very hard to provide a fire safe environment for all of the residents and businesses within the community. Focus is given toward continued community involvement with use of its Public Education Trailer and Children's Fire Safety House (which is toured by over one thousand children each year). Training offered to the public include fire extinguisher classes, visits to neighborhood block parties, special events, programs for senior citizens, and "Exit Drills In The House" (EDITH). Additionally, home fire safety surveys are offered to Village residents at no charge.



Specialty Teams

The Westmont Fire Department also coordinates Specialty Teams that are trained to respond to specific emergency needs within the community and other areas as requested:

- Origin and Cause Investigations Team
- Dive/Rescue Team
- Hazardous Materials Team (Haz-Mat)
- Tactical Emergency Medical Services Team (TEMS)
- Technical Rescue Team (TRT)